



Supervisor Molina Celebrates Stanley Mosk Courthouse Children's Waiting Room Grand Opening



Supervisor Gloria Molina and Presiding Judge Aviva Bobb celebrate the grand opening of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse Children's Waiting Room.

Supervisor Gloria Molina joined court clients and employees for the official dedication of the long-anticipated Stanley Mosk Courthouse Children's Waiting Room.

"We all know the situation that has existed for far too long—over 1,000 families use our court and we often have children sitting in hallways," Molina said. "Now children have a safe, accommodating place to play while their parents conduct business. In fact, since its opening, this waiting room has served over 300 children."

For two years, Molina has worked closely with the Chief Administrative

Office to establish such facilities. In November 2002, Molina and others marked the opening of the County's first Children's Waiting Room at the Pomona Courthouse. An additional 10 waiting rooms are slated to open their doors at courthouses throughout the County.

Parents can leave any child ranging from ages two-and-a-half to 13 in the waiting room from as few as 15 minutes to three or four hours, depending on the nature of their court business. Children can participate in a variety of activities while under the supervision of two staff members trained to work with children. The annual budget for the waiting room is expected to be about \$138,500.

Employee of the Month: Sheriff's Department's Tania M. Owen

Deputy Tania M. Owen has been a County employee for 17 years and is currently a detective with the Sheriff's Department Family Crimes Bureau, where she investigates and resolves reports of alleged child abuse.

"As a child abuse investigator, I investigate crimes against children, such as physical, sexual and endangered situations," Owen said.

In 1995, she was assigned to the Sheriff's Department Crisis Negotiation Team. Owen plays a critical role in diffusing tense situations and spares her fellow officers, hostages and hostage takers from hazardous encounters. During her career, she has worked in various divisions of the Sheriff's Department, including Custody, Patrol, Gangs, Community Relations and she also served as a mounted officer.

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EVENT CALENDAR

Ahmanson Theatre - Music Center

601 W. Temple Street

(213) 628-2772

www.taperahmanson.com

April 8 - 27 - *Elaine Stritch At Liberty*

Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Dr. La Canada-Flintridge

(818) 949-4200

www.descanso.com

March 22 - May 18 - *Spring Festival of Flowers*

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion - Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue

(323) 850-2000

www.musiccenter.org

March 22 - April 12 - *Los Angeles Opera*

The Flying Dutchman

March 29 - 30 - *Los Angeles Philharmonic*

Strauss, Thomas, Brahms

April 3 - 6 - *Los Angeles Philharmonic*

Debussy, Mozart, Rachmaninoff

April 10 - 12 - *Los Angeles Philharmonic*

Levinson, Mozart, Tchaikovsky

April 17 - 19 - *Los Angeles Philharmonic*

Dohnányi, Bartók, Dvorák

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd.

(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

February 2 - April 27 - *Ansel Adams at 100*

March 22 - 29 - *The Best of Harold Lloyd*

March 30 - 12:30 pm - *An American in Italy*

Mark Taper Forum - Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue

(213) 628-2772

www.taperahmanson.com

March 15 - May 4 - *Ten Unknowns*

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke presents

A 2-Day Adult & Youth Career Development Fair

Friday, April 11 - 10am to 3 pm

Saturday, April 12 - 10am to 3 pm

Los Angeles Southwest College

1600 W. Imperial Highway, Los Angeles

Annual African American Mental Health Conference

THEME: Educating, Healing, Advocating:
Best Practices in Providing Mental
Health Services to Persons of
African Heritage

DATE: Thursday, May 1

PLACE: Airport Hilton Hotel
5711 West Century Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

The goal of this conference is to provide professionals and paraprofessionals with specific tools and knowledge to enhance therapeutic interventions and practices in the provision of mental health services to children, families, adults, and older adults of African heritage.

For more information contact:

Renee Woodruff (323) 293-3671

Lonetta Richardson (213) 351-5347

New Telephone Number for Employee Internet Offer

Through the agreement with SBC and the County, Internet service has been available to employees at a special rate from Prodigy. SBC has recently signed an agreement with Yahoo for various Internet services and the offer to County employees will continue to be available through SBC/Yahoo. However, there is a new telephone number and online Web site for sign-up.

The offer is just \$14.95 per month* for Internet service. With SBC/Yahoo you can enjoy as many as 11 e-mail accounts accessible from any Web-connected computer, stay organized with an online address book and personal calendar, get in touch with an advanced instant messenger — and much more.

This special offer is available only to County of Los Angeles employees. To get started, just call (800)808-8635 and mention LA County or sign up on-line at:

<http://promo.sbcglobal.net/lacounty/>

The offer comes with a 30-day satisfaction guarantee.*

* See full details at enrollment. Satisfaction guarantee applies to SBC/Yahoo Membership fees of \$14.95 only. Charges for premium features, supplemental access charges and phone company charges cannot be refunded even during your first month of service. GSP charges included where applicable. If you are not completely satisfied call (866)722-3425, Option 3 during the first 30 days of service and SBC/Yahoo will issue a refund of \$14.95. Offer subject to change without notice and is not valid with any other offer. New Members only.



Join the Walk for Healthy Babies

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, March of Dimes 2003 WalkAmerica Chair, has invited County department heads and employees to join her on Saturday morning, April 26, at Griffith Park, to help fight birth defects in newborn babies.

"Helping save babies One Step at a Time is the goal of this year's campaign," Supervisor Burke stated.

Everyone can help, and employees can raise funds by buying a County team t-shirt, holding mini-walks at their worksites or by just pledging money to support their co-workers who are walking.

As a special incentive, March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign staff has developed a great opportunity drawing for the 2003 campaign: a \$5 chance to win a 2003 Toyota Sequoia Limited Full-Size SUV. Employees interested in this great fund-raising opportunity should contact their departmental WalkAmerica Coordinator or the CAO, Office of Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2466. All ticket donations will be credited towards departmental fund-raising totals.



2003 County of Los Angeles Chess Tournament



The 16th Annual County Employees Chess tournament gets underway on Thursday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Works' Alhambra Headquarters located at 900 South Fremont Ave. in Conference Room B. Chess

enthusiasts are invited to compete in both open and novice divisions. Contact Norman Cortez at (626)300-3388 or Lowell Harter at (213) 974-4298.

County DIGEST

Articles and other submissions to the County Digest may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Department of Human Resources

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(213) 639-6386

(213) 365-2080 Fax

Available online at: hr.co.la.ca.us

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MARCH RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ASSESSOR: Sandra J. Alfred, Mary F. Arce, Michael J. Bahe, Herman A. Dickson Jr, Priscilla L. Duhon, Henry Edwards, David E. Fischer, Ernest M. Goldberg, Shirley A. Hanno, J G Hickert, Manuel G. Hubbard, Bertrand Irvin, Conrado L. Lansang, John S. Loeb, Richard N. Quacquarini, Richard S. Ramirez, Enoch E. Stansfield
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Inetta Naulls, Daniel L. Pippenger

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Patricia S. Bustos, Lois M. Hudson,

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: Arthur Chavez, Reiko Kageyama-Weaver, Sandra L. Tufts

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Kenneth Cappell, James Cohan, Catherine Gallagher, Luis Garnica, Delia Hernandez, Annette E. Kirks, Joy E. Lopez, Phillip J. Moser, Dorothy A. O Neil, Virginia Rodriguez, Stacey M. Savelle

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Bonnie L. Ashford, Marie H. James

COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Kathleen Armalin, Laurie Beaver, Sharlene Dane, Saraphine Duvernay, Mike J. Earley, Joan Rodberg, Dolores J. Songalia

CORONER: Lee Crandell

COUNTY COUNSEL: Louis V. Aguilar, Deborah C. Alexander, Linda E. Van Winkle

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Judith L. Blanton, Richard A. Daum, Murray W. Davis, Kaye E. Evans, Joann Glidden, Richard N. Goldston, Robert H. Hausken, Craig N. Helmkamp, Harold W. Hofman Jr, Gary P. Judge, Joseph T. Kay Jr, James L. Lankford, Patricia M. Lux, Barbara J. Moore, William B. Patrick, Phil Rabichow, Robert E. Savitt, Tommy C. Simpson, Sharon Wells, Evelyn F. Williams

FIRE: Gary Bench, Edward W. Beneda, Loya Bohannon, Virgil R. Chance, Thomas J. Costello, Jack Dragotto, Darrell L. Esparza, Don P. Fernandez, Bruce T. Hoxsey, Terry L. Kendrick, Ronald J. Nixt, Roger Orr, Robert N. Palmer, John T. Pender, Jesse P. Perez, Douglas R. Pignet, William R. Prince, Michael H. Richey, Donald K. Schrimpf, David D. Shimahara, Roger

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“The part of my job that I find most fulfilling is helping children...they need to know that there are adults that will protect them. Children are vulnerable and depend on the adult to protect them. If their caretaker is not fulfilling their duties, then I feel that it is my responsibility to bring the child back to a place where he/she can trust again,” Owen stressed.

Owen feels that her genuine concern for the safety of children and her bilingual abilities aid in putting a child at ease who speaks only Spanish. Experience has taught her that the ability to develop a rapport with a child can be a key factor in solving a case. Owen stated that she couldn’t build a meaningful rapport through an interpreter.

Owen is very proud of the programs she has been involved with because they have all made a difference in someone’s life. Owen said, “I may not leave a mark in the world by being the President or a celebrity, but if I can make a difference in one person’s life, then that is what it is all about.”

One of her fondest memories of serving County residents is working with families in need of food and Christmas toys for their children.

“It was such an incredible feeling to see the children’s faces when they opened their presents, when they thought Santa had forgotten about them,” Owen said. “The families were all treated to a nice hot meal,” she concluded.

Owen is tireless and unselfish. She spends her personal time teaching women self-defense and prevention tactics. In addition, Owen provides guidance and counseling to aspiring police officers enrolled in the Sheriff’s Explorer Program. Her most recent project is involvement in forming a fundraising organization as well as assisting abused children and needy families.

Her husband, Steve, is also a deputy sheriff. He is assigned to the Lancaster Sheriff’s Station, where he investigates crimes that occur on school property. They have three children: two boys, Chadd, 14, Branden, 12; and a girl, Shannon, who is nine years old.

RETIREES

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Sorenson, Terry Staudenmayer, Milton L. Swarts, John D. Tuckner, Michael J. Williams

HEALTH SERVICES: Safinaz Abdelmalek, Arthur Allen, Joyce Anderson, Sylvia J. Anderson, Sandra L. Bates, Gilbert Bojorquez, Lillieth Boyce, Walter C. Breiting, Clementine Brown, Mary E. Brown, Rudolpho Caro, Nancy C. Charles, Mickey A. Christason, Michele C. Clark, Barbara M. Dunstan, Harriet L. Ellwood, William W. Emmett, Helen Franklin, Stella Franklin, Alvino D. Gallegos, Leticia L. Garcia, George Gonzalez, Kenneth Goodloe, Amelia G. Guerrero, Carolyn A. Harrison, E V Hastings, Herman Hogan, Irene E. Holmes, Glenn L. Jones, Jewel M. Jones, Ronald Lininger, Howard H. Lupica, Gloria Marques, Richard Marquez, Jimmy Mendez, Grace G. Morales, Gloria J. Oriel, Elisa Pacleb, Catherine M. Pate, Alicia Pineda, Clarice D. Pyles, Arthur Ragazzi, Stuart Ray, Christine E. Rogers, Barbara Rolfe, Nellie Roller, Vaiola A. Ryan, Charles M. Shupps, Claudia Simmons, Earnestine Stephens, Arnold Towns III, Eufrocina Y. Valdez, James E. Williams, Shoji G. Yamamoto

HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY: Rosemary C. Bandes, Cynthia Lombard, Alan A. Rawles, James A. Reid, Alonzo Whitaker

INTERNAL SERVICES: Akihiko Abe, John Almaraz, Thomas R. Banks, Joe R. Beck Sr, Richard J. Bodwell, Roy G. Brown, Jesse G. Davis, Jarvis D. Justus Jr, James B. Kay, Theresa Landry, Elridge McNair, William J. Melford, Joan E. Ouderkirk, Espanola N. Page, John W. Paskel, Jimmy O. Quilala, David G. Ramirez, Ronald Tanner, Kenneth L. Wallace, Judith L. Winchell

LACERA: Alice Y. Genda, Donald E. Jennings

MENTAL HEALTH: John E. Davis, Steven L. Fishman, Maurice Govan, Linda G. Gueringer, William G. Hernandez, Karen H. Mitobe, Ernestine Stovall, Sandra E. Taylor, Charles Veals, Barbara A. Wallace

PARKS & RECREATION: David M. Burwell, Billy R. Kennon, Thomas J. Owens

PROBATION: Mark A. Baker, John G. Bolaris, Larry J. Dorsey, Jo D. Drane, Richard Hernandez, Thomas G. LeValley, Bob Levinsky, Jerry F. Magrid Sr, Gary Matsuno, Jack G. Pionke, Eugene P. Pomerantz, Domenico Risi, Carolyn M. Sherman, Vincent A. Smith, William J. Stamps Jr, Mona L. Stanford, Jake C. Walker, Clearese Young

RETIREES

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Yaroslavsky Calls Federal Health Assistance “A Modest Step, Not a Long-Term Solution”



On February 7, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced a \$150 million funding package for the County of Los Angeles' health system, while California Governor Gray Davis committed an additional \$100 million of State funding for the County's health programs. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky issued the following statement in response to the federal government's decision concerning additional financial assistance for the County of Los Angeles' health system:

“This federal funding decision is a modest step, not a long-term solution, in our effort to stabilize and support our County health system.”

“For their efforts on our behalf, we owe a debt of thanks to Rep. David Dreier (R – San Dimas) and Rep. Jane Harman (D – Venice), whose bipartisan commitment to help has brought us where we are today.”

“The assistance offered to us, however, will not reopen High Desert Hospital and the clinics we've already shuttered, nor will it spare Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center from its pending closure in June. The deep and painful cuts we have already made will unavoidably be followed by others as the magnitude of our funding shortfall comes into sharper focus.”

“As a result, the federal and State governments, along with the County of Los Angeles, will have to continue working together in the months ahead in order to provide genuine financial stability to our health care delivery system.”

“In the meantime, however, voters in the County of Los Angeles should note with pride that their approval of Measure B in November provides the only new long-term, stable source of taxpayer funds in support of our hospitals and clinics. Measure B funding, combined with the deep service cuts now underway and the modest federal assistance announced today, will for the near term keep the system solvent.”

“At the end of the day, it was the people of the County of Los Angeles who by passing Measure B literally protected the core mission of our health system: trauma and emergency services, and continued in-patient operations at Harbor/UCLA and Olive View Medical Centers.”

Supervisor Yaroslavsky noted that despite voter approval in November 2002 of County Measure B – a parcel-tax measure expected to yield an additional \$168 million annually for the County health system – much work remains to be done to close projected funding shortfalls and restructure County health programs as the current federal Medicaid Waiver agreement draws close to its expiration date in 2005.

SHARING A COMMITMENT

County Partnership Celebrates Success of Vital CDBG Program

A partnership of Los Angeles County agencies celebrated the success of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, a vital program that funds \$40 million in community projects in the unincorporated areas of the County and 48 participating cities each year. The annual luncheon celebration, held at Almansor Court in the City of Alhambra, was organized by the County of Los Angeles' Community Development Commission (CDC), which serves as the community, economic development and affordable housing agency for the County.

This year will mark the 29th year of the CDBG program, which was enacted as part of the 1974 Federal Housing Act. The goal of the CDBG program is to provide decent, safe, sanitary housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities for low to moderate income families. The County of Los Angeles' CDBG program has been awarded the largest amount of funds of any county agency in the nation.

A diverse group of partners attended the event, including representatives from community-based organizations, cities that participate in the CDBG program, and County departments. Terry Gonzalez, director of the CDC's CDBG Division, welcomed those who attended and said, "Through the years, we have developed a strong partnership to collectively assist low to moderate income individuals and communities in the County of Los Angeles. Today, we gather to share our common bond and recognize the excellence achieved this past year. I thank all of you, including the CDC staff, for your dedicated teamwork."

The meeting included a PowerPoint presentation, which showcased outstanding local projects. Awards were presented to participating cities that met CDBG program goals and implemented outstanding projects.

The following three projects received special awards:

Foundation for Children's Dental Health's (FCDH) Children's Dental Services Program

(Award Category: Community-Based Organization)

This FCDH program provides basic dental services to children 2 to 16 years of age who are from low-income families in unincorporated County areas of the Santa Clarita Valley. Each year, the agency screens and prioritizes 600 patients to be treated and obtains appropriate eligibility documentation, medical histories and consent forms. The children are identified through the list of participants in the federally-funded free and reduced price school lunch program in selected area schools. CDBG money provides roughly six percent of the FCDH's budget. This past year, over \$15,000 in CDBG funds went to the program.

City of La Verne's History, Allergy, and Medications (HAM) Program

(Award Category: Participating City)

This new program is designed to help senior citizens and disabled persons in La Verne during medical emergencies by allowing paramedics to gather pertinent patient information quickly and accurately. Each program participant carries a HAM card, which looks like a credit card containing their information. In its first year, the program was supported entirely by CDBG funds – amounting to nearly \$9,000 – which was used to purchase the necessary equipment to document and transfer pertinent medical information and a photograph of each participant.

Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs' Homeowner Fraud Prevention Program

(Award Category: County Department)

This on going project aims to prevent low to moderate income homeowners of the Second Supervisorial District, which includes much of South Los Angeles, from becoming victims of fraud in home equity transactions and the purchase of home repairs, improvements, and household goods and services. Program staff investigate complaints, provide individual and group counseling, speak before groups (especially senior citizens), and disseminate printed materials to residents. Nearly \$43,000 in CDBG funds goes to the program annually.

The County CDC is in the midst of its annual CDBG planning cycle. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the CDC to annually submit an "Action Plan," which describes how federal housing and community development funds emanating from HUD will be allocated. The 2003-2004 Action Plan will disperse approximately \$55 million in these funds, of which \$40 million will constitute CDBG program funds. Every five years – year 2003-2004 is one of those increments – the CDC is also required by HUD to submit a "Five-Year Plan," which assesses community needs and presents goals and priorities.

Community input was collected for the Action Plan and the Five-Year Plan through a series of eight meetings held throughout the County in September and October of 2002. These comments fed into and helped shape the draft plans. Last November, the list of comments was delivered to the County Board of Supervisors for its consideration. Follow-up community meetings are scheduled for March and April. Draft plans are tentatively scheduled to be available for public review and comment later this month.



Community-Based Organizations

Standing from left to right: Betty Granger, Director of New Hope Pre-School; Maricela Sholes, Executive Director, Foundation of Children's Dental Health; Carlos Jackson, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission.



Participating Cities

Standing from left to right: Carlos Jackson, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission; Linda Christianson, Senior Planner, City of La Verne; Eric Scherer, Assistant Planner, City of La Verne.



County Departments

Standing from left to right: Pastor Herrera Jr., Director, Department of Consumer Affairs; Brenda Andujo, Senior Investigator; Ruby Bryant, Investigator; Carlos Jackson, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission.



County of Los Angeles VISION

Our **purpose** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- ◆ responsiveness
- ◆ professionalism
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ compassion
- ◆ integrity
- ◆ commitment
- ◆ a can-do attitude
- ◆ respect for diversity

Our **position** as the premiere organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- ◆ a capability to undertake programs that have public value
- ◆ an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation
- ◆ a pledge to always work to earn the public trust

Supervisor Knabe Dedicates a New Baywatch Cabrillo Rescue Boat

Supervisor Don Knabe announced an interagency effort to strengthen Homeland Security in the County of Los Angeles, as he dedicated a new Baywatch Cabrillo Rescue Boat Station at the U.S. Coast Guard Base in Los Angeles. County of Los Angeles lifeguards will now be operating a 24-hour rescue boat on the base in a joint effort to better utilize resources when responding to maritime emergencies.



Supervisor Don Knabe with Lifeguard Chief Mike Frazier on Baywatch Cabrillo

The new partnership will free Coast Guard watercraft and personnel to fulfill other duties related to Homeland Security, such as patrolling ports and providing on-site ship inspections. The new partnership is a result of lifeguard participation in Coast Guard operations after September 11, 2001. The County of Los Angeles lifeguards coordinated all search and rescue operations for the Coast Guard for a period of seven months after the attacks on the World Trade Center.

The interagency cooperation will strengthen both departments. The U.S. Coast Guard has a large rescue platform and can provide extended state-of-the-art training to County personnel. County lifeguards bring vast knowledge of local waters and conditions, in addition to a wealth of advanced medical training to the Coast Guard's rescue operations. Better communication systems will benefit both agencies, decreasing response times and increasing survival rates for victims of ocean emergencies.

This is just one of the steps being taken to provide a stronger readiness for the County's Homeland Security efforts. During the next months, several such partnerships will be forged between local, state and federal agencies to better prepare the County of Los Angeles for future disasters.



Supervisor Knabe with County of Los Angeles Lifeguards and U.S. Coast Guard Officers.

American Red Cross Aids Mexico's Earthquake Victims

As Mexican residents experience the emotional aftershocks of the powerful January 21st earthquake, humanitarian agencies like the American Red Cross, active in Mexico for decades, are carrying out relief and rehabilitation programs to help people in need. The 7.6 magnitude quake killed at least 25 people in western coastal states near the quake's epicenter and left over 9,436 people homeless in the states of Colima and Jalisco. The quake, felt by residents in the states of Colima, Michoacan and Jalisco, caused massive power outages and landslides.



More than 10,000 homes sustained damage in Colima the state closest to the quake's epicenter. (Photo courtesy of USAID)

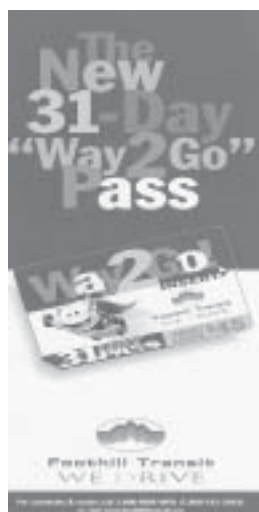
"Continued assistance is needed to help the thousands of people who were left homeless," Supervisor Gloria Molina stated. "Through our generous support, we can also help repair damaged homes and potential mudslide areas before the seasonal rains arrive, avoiding further losses."

Employees who wish to provide assistance should make their donation payable to the American Red Cross Mexican Relief Fund, which will provide immediate and long-term support through supplies and technical assistance. Send your donation to American Red Cross – Mexican Relief Fund, P.O. Box 97089, Washington, DC, 20090-7089. If you would like additional information, call (800) HELP NOW (800-435-7669) or (800) 257-7575 (Spanish).



New Foothill Transit Pass

During a recent Board meeting, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich encouraged support for a new Foothill Transit 31-Day "Way 2 Go" Pass, available March 1, as a creative rideshare option.



This newly-enhanced monthly bus pass promotes flexibility and convenience. Customers can purchase passes anytime during the month, and the pass will be valid 31 days from the first day of use.

"By making the pass more flexible, Foothill Transit has eliminated a lot of wasted days before the pass is ever actually used," stated Araceli Lopez, Foothill Transit Community Relations. "From day one of purchase, riders will immediately benefit before any days pass by."

In the Civic Center, Foothill Transit "Way 2 Go" passes will be available at the Treasurer-Tax Collector's first floor counter in the near future. For additional information regarding Foothill Transit's 31-Day "Way 2 Go" Pass, please call (800) RIDEINFO, or visit www.foothilltransit.org



County of Los Angeles Unveils Web site to Find Missing Foster Children

Initiated by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors as part of a comprehensive plan to locate missing foster children, a Web site listing the names and photos of missing foster children is now available at www.missingkidsla.org.

"This Web site is an important tool that allows the public to aid in the efforts to find these children and return them to County care," Supervisor Antonovich stated.

Judge Michael Nash, presiding judge of the Juvenile Court, recently gave his approval to this vital effort. The comprehensive Web site currently maintains information on approximately 700 children, of which 276 have pictures. The Web site will be updated weekly to reflect the most current information on children who have been unaccounted for.

The Missing Foster Children Web site has the potential to integrate the District Attorney's Abducted Children site and to add missing and abducted children from the probation system. This capability will provide the public with a single location to find information on missing children within the County of Los Angeles. These enhancements, along with additional navigational aids, will be implemented in future phases of the system.

Vehicles for Literacy: Fire Department's Vehicle Donation Program Benefits Literacy Efforts

When a member of the public dials "911" in case of fire or medical emergency, firefighters waste no time in putting their wheels into motion. For the past 80 years, the Los Angeles County Fire Department has been there to serve the community. Its fire engines and paramedic vehicles are part of the community landscape, and represent safety and strength.



Battalion Chief Steve Martin and Engineer Chris Casillas

Now, County firefighters are using vehicles in a new way to address another need in many of our communities: literacy. Through the Department's Public Education program, a Vehicle Donation Program has been established to financially support its new Children's Literacy Program.

Partnering with the National Charity Support Foundation, County firefighters are seeking vehicle donations to help the Literacy Program get started. Vehicles in any condition including trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles and other property of value donated to the Foundation will be sold to support the Department's literacy projects. Proceeds from the sale of the vehicles will be returned to local communities served by County firefighters to support the program's many services. One of the key offerings will be book fairs, where children will receive high quality reading books at little or no cost. Another key project will be the creation of a Fire Department-themed vehicle to visit special events, where fire and life safety education materials may be directly distributed to children and their parents.

Firefighter Specialist Chris Casillas of Fire Station 118 began developing the project last year, working with then Captain Steve Martin of the Public Education Office at headquarters. Casillas sees both programs as beneficial to the Department's fire prevention and life safety mission. "This is an excellent opportunity to help our communities and society as a whole by promoting the joy of reading and literacy through our Fire Department," Martin said. "Sadly, two-thirds of all third-graders in the greater Los Angeles area fail to achieve grade-level reading. As firefighters, we are in a unique position to encourage children to read."

The new Vehicle Donation Program goes hand-in-hand with the Children's Literacy Program. One of the most rewarding aspects of the Literacy Program is the volunteer opportunity for County firefighters in uniform to read to children in hospitals and classrooms. During presentations, firefighters will emphasize the importance of reading to their own duties as firefighters, and provide a period of time for questions and answers. The children will receive free books to encourage them to read at home with parents and siblings. As a backdrop, a static display of fire prevention information and possibly a fire demonstration in an outdoor area will complement the reading component of the visit. In addition to the free books and fire and life safety informational literature; stickers, badges and balloons will be given to each child as a reminder of the visit.

Donor benefits include a tax deduction for the full market value of the vehicle, the removal of unwanted vehicles from their property at no cost, environmental improvement, and no additional costs for DMV fees, smog tests, insurance and maintenance.

"The biggest benefit of this program, of course, is to the children of our communities," Casillas said.

To participate, call (800) 203-2940 and name the Los Angeles County Fire Department as the charity of choice. All vehicles will be picked up by a courteous tow truck driver, a receipt will be issued, and all DMV paperwork will be handled by the National Charity Support Foundation.

For more information, contact Engineer Casillas at Fire Station 118 at (626) 854-3488.

RETIREES

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PUBLIC DEFENDER: Jerold F. Berger, Carl S. Kandel, Adolfo D. Lara, Daniel R. Milgrom, Martin Mizel

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Doris E. Marshall-Holmes, Rita L. Miller

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Carolyn M. Bowie, Alberta D. Bradley, Claudette Broach, Margaret A. Buchanan, Ibis G. Carrera, Vivian Claiborne, Carolyn Cobb, Rebecca Cuellar, Peggy Dobson, Gloria J. Edison, Betty L. Gaston, Mary Guzman, Barbara E. Harbor, Ruth M. Herring, Vivian Iniguez, Carolyn E. Johnson, Wanda J. Knapp, Patricia R. Knauss, Frank A. Langston, Beatrice LeBlanc, Roberta Lynch, Irene M. Matko, Joyce Matthews, Richard A. Milton, Ruby L. Miranda, Edna Morris-Ameen, Margaret Mortensen, John O. Murrell, Hazel Ortega, Sandra B. Rodriguez, Marsha A. Rose, William K. Scheiern, Kathleen Stanton, Deborah L. Tepper, Eva L. Thompson, Calvin M. Tsukada, Ronald Weingarten, Bruce L. Worthan, Irene Ybarra, Giralda Yturralde

PUBLIC WORKS: Robert A. Barragan, Primitivo Candia, Vincent A. Ferrini, Toni A. Franklin, Donna L. Guyovich, William G. Harshman, Brian D. Hooper, Joyce D. Jenks, William F. Jenks Jr, Marvin S. Johnson, Dave Lomas, James Parra, Robert H. Ramirez, Peter Rogers, Richard L. Seiden, Clarence Smith, Laurence Urban

REGIONAL PLANNING: Joel Daskal, Morris Litwack

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Richard M. Escalante, Freddie L. Phillips

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SUPERIOR COURT: Johnny B. Austin, Susan M. Bernier, Gerald A. Bilodeau, Lea E. Kern, Elayne A. Landy, John C. LeVan, Allan B. Lott, Elma Oda, Sharon C. Stilley

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Nadia S. Girguis, William A. Reed, Mark D. White

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ASSESSOR: Julieta J. Apolinario, Christina Q. Nagashima

BEACHES & HARBORS: Louise A. Estes

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Carmen Chavez, Sheila Kennedy, Helen T. Koda, David C. Luk, Ruby Nelson, David A. Nielsen

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Mignon Grigsby-Day, Maria Y. Kim, Frances C. Magdaleno, Akiko J. Murata

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Marion F. Amescua, Daisy M. Saffold, Roy W. Saukkola, John D. Trump

FIRE: William J. Bell, Joseph R. Boston, Clifford Evans Jr, Randy Hall, Robert Harper, Steven C. Lindstrum, Robert M. Tomlinson

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SHERIFF: John A. Bercich, Eustaquio P. Bersamin, Audrae L. Broadnau, Michael S. Calderon, David L. Campbell Sr, Hansford E. Clinkingbear, Raymond Costales, Timothy C. Dowling, George B. Feten, Wendell D. Franklin, Jimmie E. Harrell, George A. Kretik, Purita J. Lacangan, Frank E. McKay Jr, Clara J. Miller, Amalia Mitchell, Stuart A. Murrell, Mary D. Munshi, Cerelina O. Natividad, Edgardo D. Oriel, Roberto Ortiz, Roberto D. Papa, Paul T. Phillips III, Gilberto Rangel, Charles W. Robinson, Miguel A. Rodriguez Jr, Keith A. Warloe, Clara J. Wood

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Share It

The Uniqueness of the County of Los Angeles

The County of Los Angeles stands as a unique bastion of diversity and the center of education, arts and culture. Here are a few interesting facts and figures that reflect the County's dynamism.

Did you know that ...

- Downtown Los Angeles is the largest government center outside Washington D.C. and is home to 45,000 public sector jobs.
- The Los Angeles region is home to the largest retail sales market in the United States, and second largest for international trade. In 1999, the County of Los Angeles claimed over \$97 billion.
- The largest historical theater district listed on the National Register of Historic Places is in the County of Los Angeles on Broadway, between Third and Ninth Streets in Downtown Los Angeles. The district features nickelodeons, vaudeville houses, theaters and movie palaces.
- The County of Los Angeles is the mural capital of the world, with more than 1,500 wall paintings on storefronts, alleys and street corners. The world's largest mural, *Planet Ocean*, can be seen in Long Beach. The world's longest mural is the *Great Wall of Los Angeles*, stretching nearly 2,500 feet along the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley.

- Residents of the County of Los Angeles include people from 140 countries. The community has the largest population of Armenians, Cambodians, Filipinos, Guatemalans, Japanese, Koreans, Mexicans, and Salvadorans outside of their respective countries.
- The County of Los Angeles is home to the world's most famous sidewalk, Hollywood's Walk of Fame, which serves as a tribute to entertainers.
- The County of Los Angeles has nearly 10 million residents—which represents 30 percent of California's population; with 4,083 square miles, it is larger than 42 states. Within its borders are 88 municipalities, ranging from Vernon—with a population of 152—to Los Angeles—with a population of 3.7 million.
- The world's only merry-go-round apartment can be found on top of the merry-go-round on Santa Monica Pier.

Fee Increase

Effective January 1, the State Legislature has added a new fee of \$2 to existing certified copy fees for birth and death certificates. The cost to obtain a certified copy from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerks Office for a birth record will be \$18 and the cost for a death record will be \$13. The fees were increased pursuant to Senate Bill 247 (Chap. 914, Stats. 2002). From the new \$2 fee, \$.35 is to be retained at the local level to defray the costs of developing safety and security measures to protect against the fraudulent use of birth and death records. The remainder of the fee (\$1.65) is to be forwarded to the State Registrar to fund the statewide database.

Information on how to obtain a copy of a birth record is available from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Birth, Death and Marriage records section at (562) 462-2137. For further information about the fee increase please contact (562) 462-2081.



Members of the Board

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Gloria Molina
First District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

Michael J. Henry
Director of Personnel

Sandra A. Hoodye
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

Martina Abgaryan
Editor